



COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

NOVEMBER 15, 2024

www.coloradoleague.org

[Flagstaff Academy]

PLEASE

RE-NAME “name, school”
CHAT when you can
MUTE while not speaking

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AGENDA

Welcome

DAN SCHALLER

President, Colorado League of Charter Schools

Post-election Insights & Vision for the Future

STARLEE COLEMAN

CEO, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS)

Fostering Safe & Supportive Schools

CHRISTINE HARMS

DIRECTOR, Colorado School Safety Resource Center

Recordings available online at coloradoleague.org > resources > townhalls

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Online at: coloradoleague.org > [about](#) > [who we are](#) > [league staff](#)

IN THE NEWS



Nov 15, 2024

Charter Families Are Majority Makers

The outcome of the race made one thing clear: Charter school families are a political force to be reckoned with.

Charter Families Are Majority Makers

Good morning everyone,

On election night last week, there were any number of consequential races being decided for both our state and country. In the midst of all the attention being paid to the Presidential and Congressional contests, you'd be forgiven for not having the bandwidth to absorb much else. But one race in particular – that for a decisive seat on the Colorado State Board of Education – was important on many levels, not least of which for what it revealed about the importance of the state's growing and influential charter school sector.



Perspective: Charter schools deliver

Prateek Dutta Nov 10, 2024

Public school choice is a core part of Colorado's educational fabric. It empowers families, improves educational outcomes and strengthens our communities. Charter schools play a vital role in offering families choices when it comes to selecting where and how their students receive their education.

Research consistently shows that having access to this choice, in turn, fosters a healthy ecosystem where students and communities thrive. Charter schools, while often misunderstood and sometimes criticized, are serving Colorado students and their families well.

To understand how charter schools are providing value to families and students, you need to know some background about what charter schools are.

In Colorado, charter schools are free, public, and open to all. They operate similarly to other public schools in the state, meaning that parents can select them, enroll, and have the same access as other students. If there are too many students who want in, there is a randomized process for gaining admission.



WAITLIST SURVEY

Complete a flash poll on waitlists at your school to help us as we head to the legislative session.

Up to ten respondents to this survey will receive gift cards for their school.



coloradoleague.org/resource/waitlist-survey-2024.html

SOUTHERN COLORADO REGIONAL GATHERING

Join Southern Colorado charter leaders at an upcoming Regional Happy Hour hosted by the Colorado League of Charter Schools! Connect and network with other charter leaders in the Southern Colorado area, as well as League staff.

Location:

1129 Spirits & Eatery

(115 E Riverwalk #100, Pueblo, CO 81003)

coloradoleague.org/events/event-calendar/regional-gathering-southern-colorado.html

SYNERGY

The Colorado Charter Schools
Annual Conference
February 27-28, 2025
Denver Marriott Tech Center

SYNERGY: The interaction or cooperation of two or more entities to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects.



COLORADO LEAGUE *of*
CHARTER SCHOOLS



Post-election Insights & Visions for the Future

STARLEE COLEMAN

CEO, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS)



NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR
**PUBLIC
CHARTER
SCHOOLS**

**Clearing the Path
for public charter school growth,
funding, and freedom**



CLEARING THE PATH FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL GROWTH, FUNDING, AND FREEDOM

1. Effective Political Engagement
2. Federal Policy & Advocacy
3. State Policy & Advocacy
4. Legal Advocacy
5. Telling the Charter School Story

2025 FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES

1. Federal Charter Schools Program – more on flexibility, less on funding (more wins like the CO SFIG grant announced last month!)
2. New Market Tax Credit renewal
3. USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program

Fostering Safe & Supportive Schools

CHRISTINE HARMS

DIRECTOR, Colorado School Safety Resource Center



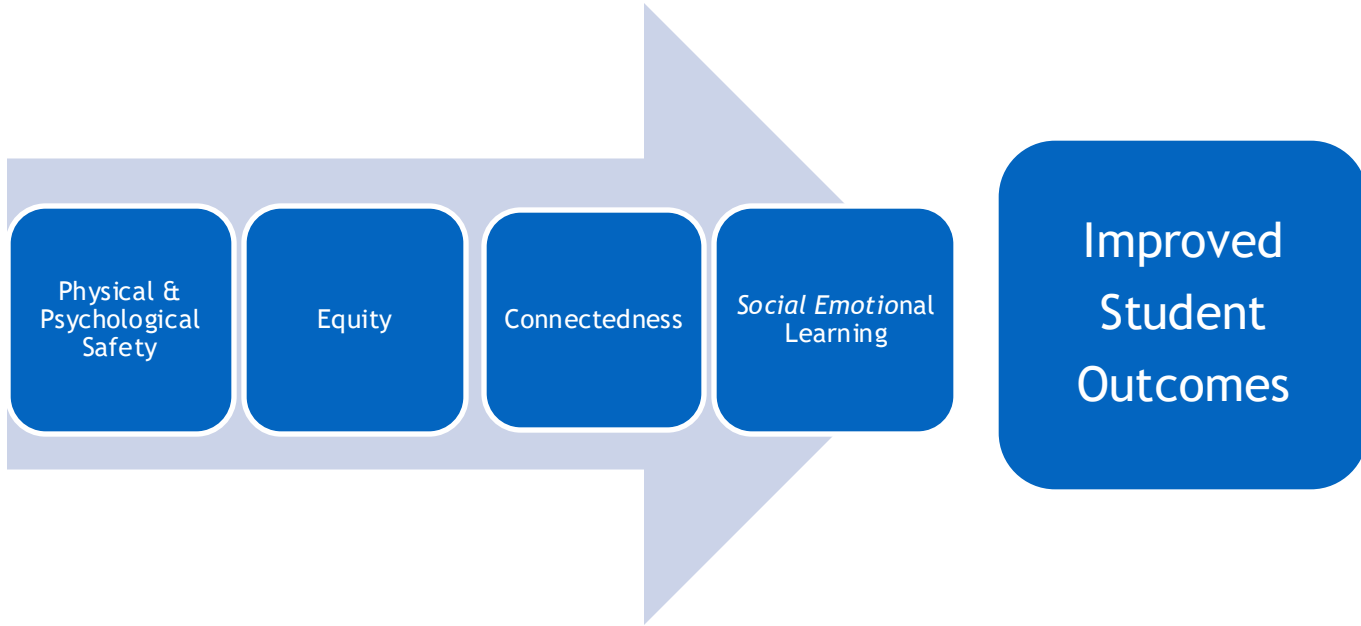


COLORADO
Office of School Safety
Department of Public Safety

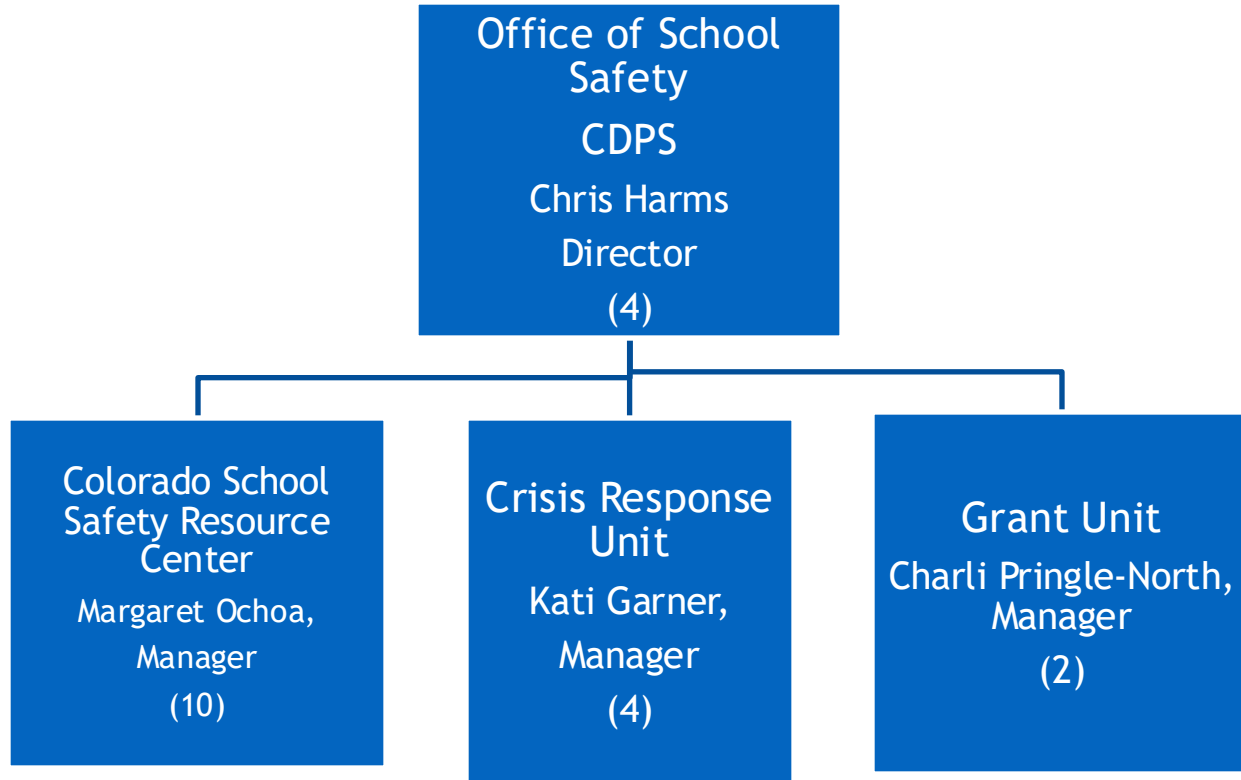
COLORADO OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY

Colorado League of Charter Schools
November 15, 2024
Christine R. Harms MS, Director
Colorado Office of School Safety
Colorado Department of Public Safety

School Climate and Achievement



Office of School Safety - SB23-241



Office of School Safety

- Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC) - 10 FTEs
 - Margaret Ochoa - Manager
 - Brad Stiles - Emergency Response Outreach Consultant
 - Cary Lynch - School Outreach Consultant
 - Jae Dee Wood - Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist
 - Melissa Rubeo - Resource Specialist
 - Kelly Addington - SE Regional Training Consultant
 - Mike Vagher - Eastern Regional Training Consultant
 - Chelsey Lehmkuhl- NE Regional Training Consultant
 - Kelly Donnelly - NW Regional Training Consultant
 - Amy Miglinas - SW Regional Training Consultant

Office of School Safety

- **Crisis Unit** - 4 FTEs
 - Manager: Kati Garner
 - Crisis Response Specialists: Jenny Mills, Brandi Vos and Leah Lefever
 - NASP trained in PREPaRE and other crisis response topics
 - Able to train other MH providers in PREPaRE
 - Able to respond to a school crisis
- **Grants Unit** - 2 FTEs
 - Manager: Charli Pringle-North
 - Grant Specialist - Chamone Patrick-Jones
 - Managing 90+ grants currently
 - Able to research school safety grants

Colorado Safe Schools Act (CRS 22.32.109.1)

SB08-181: NIMS for Colorado Schools

Requires all school districts and the Charter School Institute (CSI) to adopt the tenets of the National Response Framework (NRF), including the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command Structure (ICS).



In the definitions a school includes:

(g.3) “School” means a public school of a school district, a charter school, or an institute charter school.

Components of the Colorado Safe Schools Act C.R.S. 22-32-109.1

- Makes safety a priority in mission
- Development of a safe school plan
- Requires written policies for conduct and discipline codes
- Bullying prevention & education
- Safe schools reporting requirements for conduct & discipline code violations
- Internet safety plan (recommended)
- Agreements with state agencies
- School response framework-school safety, readiness & incident management plan
- Safety & security policy
- Employee screenings
- Immunity for school personnel-safe school plan
- Compliance with reporting
- Sharing information
- CSA prevention (encouraged)

Basic Physical Safety Recommendations

School Safety Team to consider:

- External Safety measures
 - Perimeter delineation
 - Well-lit parking
 - Safe playgrounds
 - Secure entryways
 - Exterior doors that lock
- Internal Safety Measures
 - Secure vestibules or secure entry process
 - Working PA system that can be heard EVERYWHERE
 - Classroom doors that easily lock
 - Training for staff, students and information to parents/guardians on safety procedures

Information to Parents/Guardians

- Student handbooks that require a sign-off
- Opportunities at parent/guardian gatherings for quick safety reminders
- Information on conducting trauma-sensitive drills. Solicit their input to school staff if their student has significant trauma.
- Letters after drills to alert parents/guardians and request their assistance with reassuring students.

Basic Psychological Safety Recommendations

- Efforts to create a positive climate in the building
- Consistent discipline interventions and consequences
- Social emotional lessons including bullying prevention
- Suicide prevention workshops (at least 3 times in each student's career)
- Trauma-informed drills
- Trained threat assessment teams
- Mental health staff trained to do suicide assessments
- Mental health providers trained in PREPaRE

Best Practices in School Safety

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. School Safety Planning Team & Crisis Response Team w/initial training | IS 100SCa Incident Command IS 362A Multi-Hazard IS 700 Incident Command for Schools All free online from FEMA |
| 2. Assess community & building safety concerns | Templates/First responders will help/community emergency managers may help/free |
| 3. Write/update existing school safety plans | Templates available/CSSRC can assist/free |
| 4. Incident Command Structure in place (NIMS compliant) | Templates available/CSSRC/free |

Best Practices in School Safety

| | |
|--|--|
| 5. Develop emergency actions & conduct drills including communication checks (Evacuation, Shelter-in-Place, Lockdown & Lockout) | Templates from CSSRC & others/free CSSRC can assist with tabletop drills/free |
| 6. Threat Assessment - policy & procedures in place for a process | Training available/CSSRC/free |
| 7. Threat Assessment Team trained | CSSRC/free |
| 8. Psychological Recovery Team trained | CSSRC/free PREPaRE/NASP |
| 9. Continue to complete and update plan and train according to best practices | Templates available from CSSRC/U.S. Dept. of Ed/U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security |

Psychological Safety Workshops Available

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Adult Sexual Misconduct Training | CSSRC CSDSIP |
| Brain Development | CSSRC |
| Bullying Prevention | CDE Recommended Policy for Districts & Resources CSSRC/Resource Guide |
| Child Abuse Prevention Trainings | CSSRC/Resource Guide |
| Psychological Issues of Youth | CSSRC |
| Restorative Practices | CSSRC/Resource Guide |
| Secondary Traumatic Stress | CSSRC & Crisis Response Unit |
| Sexting & Cyberbullying Prevention | CSSRC Local law enforcement agencies |
| Suicide Best Practices | CSSRC/Resource Guide CDPHE/Office of Suicide Prevention |
| Trauma Sensitive Classrooms | CDHS/Trauma Office |

Colorado General Assembly 2024

HB24-1003 Opiate Antagonists and Detection Products in Schools

HB24-1039 Non-Legal Name Change

HB24-1136 Healthier Social Media Use by Youth

HB24-1216 Supports for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

HB24-1285 Student Weight-Based Bullying Prevention

HB24-1320 Educator Safety Task Force

HB24-1349 Firearms & Ammunition Excise Tax

HB24-1406 School-Based Mental Health Supports

Colorado General Assembly 2024

- SB24-01 Continue Youth Mental Health Services
- SB24-07 Behavioral Health First Aid Training Program
- SB24-113 Safer Youth Sports
- SB24-162 Best Practices to Prevention Discrimination in Schools
- SB24-227 Automated External Defibrillators in Public Schools

Reminder: HB23-1003 School Mental Health Assessments

Educators' School Safety Task Force

- HB24-1320 with members specified in the legislation
- 15 voting members and three non-voting members
- Convened on August 29, 2024
- First four meetings by 12/31/2024
- Studying:
 - Laws and regulations for school staff safety
 - Caseload effects on disruptive learning environments
 - Incidents of aggressive student behavior and consequences
 - Solutions to the challenges
 - The work of the School Finance Task Force, SSWG, Disproportionate Discipline Task Force and Facility Schools Working Group.
 - Impact of insufficient funding and lack of resources
 - Recommendations for administrative and statutory changes
- Final report due June 30, 2025

Challenging Issues in School Safety

- Swatting
- Threat Assessments
- Others?

Swatting

- “Swatting is when someone calls in a bogus threat in an attempt to direct law enforcement resources to a particular home, school, or other location.”
- AI generated, in some cases: 4/13/2023
<https://www.vice.com/en/article/k7z8be/torswats-computer-generated-ai-voice-swatting>
- NASRO guidelines: 9/26/2022
- <https://www.nasro.org/news/2022/09/26/news-releases/surge-in-school-swatting-calls-considerations-for-school-resource-officers/>

FBI Indicators of Potential Swatting Calls

Caution: Continue to use your agreed upon protocols.

- Callers stating a specific number of deceased or injured victims. During an ongoing incident, this information may not be known.
- Receiving one call regarding an ongoing attack. Call centers typically receive multiple calls from more than one person.
- Callers referencing non-existent classroom numbers, floors, or buildings. Someone on the scene would be familiar with the actual location.
- Caller ID showing a different number than the alleged source.

FBI Indicators of Potential Swatting Calls

- Calling the non-emergency line to a local police department. Calls to report incidents of this nature are typically made to 9-1-1 centers. Calling a non-emergency line may indicate the call was made using VoIP.
- Caller hangs up when asked for additional information about discrepancies in information provided or lack of background noise or when asked for someone else to be put on the phone.

¹ (U//FOUO); Notification; *Federal Bureau of Investigation Intelligence Branch Office of Partner Engagement*; “Subject Making Hoax Active Shooter Calls to Schools”; 26 September 2022.

² (U//FOUO); Intelligence Bulletin; *San Diego Law Enforcement Coordination Center*; “Swatting Incidents Likely Continue to Divert Responding Law Enforcement from Legitimate Emergencies and Have the Potential to Create Dangerous Situations”; 23 September 2022.

Threat Assessment

*Despite its good intentions,
threat assessment has been criticized as an unfair and
discriminatory process*

**Protocols to stop mass school shootings are
spreading. Are students' rights being violated?**

Dewey Cornell, Ph.D., Presentation March 9, 2023 in Colorado

Agreement

- Threat assessment must be fair and equitable to all students.
- Student rights must be protected.
- Student misbehavior should not be inappropriately criminalized or subject to zero tolerance discipline.
- Schools must monitor and address any evidence of unfairness or bias.

Studies on Threat Assessment

2012, School Psychology Review. Random controlled trial 40 schools, 20 did threat assessments and 20 did not.

Students in threat assessment schools...

- 4x more likely to receive counseling
- 2.5x more parent involvement
- 3x more likely not to get long-term suspension
- 8x more likely not to be placed elsewhere

Threat Assessment Data Collection

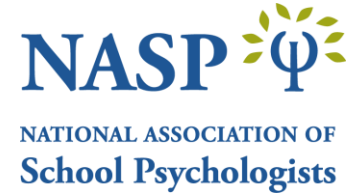
School TA **Without** Data Can Lead to...

- Uneven practice
- Reactionary planning
- Unclear patterns
- Uneven resources
- Disproportionality
- Inadequate staffing
- Unpredictability

TA **With** Data Enables Schools to...

- Standard practice
- Proactive planning
- Identify patterns
- Proportioned resources
- Monitor/address disproportionality
- Assess staffing needs

NASP Recommended Minimum Data



- Numbers of threat assessments screens and full assessments conducted, disaggregated by identified disability, race and ethnicity.
- Outcomes of each threat assessment case and disaggregate by identified disability, race and ethnicity
- Referral, removal, involuntary commitment, and arrest rates for students who have had a threat assessment conducted and disaggregated by identified disability, race, and ethnicity

If disproportionality is identified for any group or subgroup of students, it is imperative that schools immediately seek to examine factors that contributed to identified disparities and take corrective action to promote equitable practices and outcomes. - NASP 2021

Upcoming OSS Training

Colorado Crisis Response Symposium

- Totally virtual, December 3, 2024
 - Marlene Wong, Trauma & Crisis Response Expert
 - David Schonfeld, National Center for School Crisis & Bereavement
 - Devin Cramer, Higher Education Response to a Critical Event
 - Lisa Wobbe, Broward County Public Schools Recovery Consultant
- Registration is on www.Colorado.gov/OSS

Upcoming OSS Training

January Speakers' Series

- January 7th , 11:30 - 12:30 - One Chance to Grow Up
- January 28th, 11:30- 12:30 - Youth Gaming & Gambling Addiction

Student/Staff Summits - Rise Above Colorado

- January 15th, Otera College, La Junta
- January 29th , Impact Center, Durango
- February 26th, Northeastern Junior College, Sterling

Site-based Training

- ❖ ASIST, QPR, PREPaRE, TA, CSSRC Suicide Assessment & Intervention Toolkit, Cybersafety, MH for Educators, Bullying Prevention, and more
- ❖ 12 online courses which can earn CEUs
- ❖ Virtual workshops - these vary so check Training Calendar
- ❖ Email or call us for any other school safety needs. Template is on the homepage of our website: www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC

Ongoing Initiative

- **School Safety Working Group (SSWG)** established December 2022
 - Created in legislation - SB20-023 and HB22-1274
 - Mission: Reviewed the work of the state agencies involved in school safety efforts
 - Looked for duplication
 - Considered evaluation
 - Identified gaps
 - Made recommendations to the legislature
- Work was conducted by committees
 - Behavioral and Mental Health Committee
 - Access to Services Committee
 - Gap Analysis
 - Sustainability
 - Metrics & Data
 - Physical Safety
- Report went to the Colorado General Assembly in January 2024

Ongoing Initiative

Colorado School Safety Initiative (CSSI) established April 2023

- Confluence Policy & Strategy and Public Education & Business Coalition (PEBC)
- Broader mission
 - Look at school and community safety
 - Will be informed by the work of the SSWG
 - Will consult with local agencies doing school safety work
- 200+ community volunteers
- Ongoing project
- Quarterly updates including a report to the legislature in the spring of 2024



2024 School Safety Academy

OSS is hosting the fourth School Safety Academy virtually this year, from June 3rd to 7th. Attendees will gain foundational knowledge on fundamental principles of school safety.

www.Colorado.gov/CSSRC

Supporting Safe and Positive Colorado Schools

The Office of School Safety provides Colorado schools and communities with the tools and resources to create safe and positive school environments for all Colorado students, pre-kindergarten through higher education.

The three units of the Office of School Safety support Colorado schools:

- The School Safety Resource Center provides resources, consultation, training, and technical assistance -
- The Crisis Unit training school personnel responds to critical incidents and assists when called upon -
- The Grants Unit researches and manages grant opportunities for schools -

[OSS Online Search Document Library](#)

[Colorado Interagency Working Group on School Safety](#)

School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC)

The mission of the Colorado School Safety Resource Center (CSSRC) is to assist educators, emergency responders, community organizations, school mental health professionals, parents and students to create safe, positive and successful school environments for Colorado students in all pre K-12 and higher education schools.

[CSSRC Training/Presentation Request Form](#)

[All OSS Virtual Trainings](#)

OSS Crisis Unit

The Crisis Unit is established in the Office of School Safety to provide crisis response training to school personnel and make available mental health professionals on a limited basis to assist in the aftermath of a critical incident, when requested.

[Services from the Crisis Unit](#)

OSS Grants Unit

The Grants Unit is established in the Office of School Safety to manage available school safety grant funding from state and federal authorities and provide grant training and consultation to schools across Colorado.

[Currently Available Grants](#)

Thank You!



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WWW.COLORADO.GOV/OSS



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www.coloradoleague.org

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Townhall Survey



surveymonkey.com/r/CLCS-training